

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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THE PRODIGAL SON'S EPITAPH

By MISSIONARY NORMAN LEWIS

Pampa 2975, Buenos Aires, Argentina, South America

"I thought on my ways and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep my commandments."—Psa. 119:59, 60.

These verses have been called the Prodigal Son's Epitaph. I like to think that after the prodigal son got back to the father's house he lived right and died right. It is wonderful how many prodigals have come back to God the Father's house, by the same route. Let us notice:

I. "I Thought"

It is a great thing to be able to think. God has given us minds as big as the universe. Man's mind can step from star to star, from planet to planet, then swing away into outer space and back again. Or man's mind can crouch down and crawl into an atom, and even tear the atom apart. You decide every day whether you will fill your mind with stars or sawdust. You can fill your mind with jewels and flaming suns, or with garbage. It is yours to choose whether you mold your mind with comets or the cross.

Remember, there is a difference between folks who think and those who don't. A big lump of something, a stone supposedly, lay for centuries in a North Car-

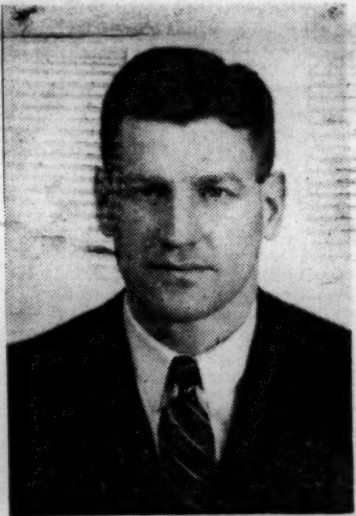
olina brook. Generations of people came and went, saw only an ugly lump, and unthinkingly passed on. One day a poor man, seeing a stone, pondered a moment, thought it a good rock to hold the door open, and took it home. A geologist stopped by one day, studied the rock thoughtfully and found that it was gold—the biggest lump of gold ever found east of the Rocky Mountains.

Have you really thought about Jesus Christ? Is He is a stone to you? or gold?

Think About Jesus

The Bible says, "Consider him." "Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself" (Heb. 12:3). How much have you ever sincerely thought about Jesus? Have you thought how wonderful that He should be born, unknown on earth, while angel throngs gathered to fill the night skies with praise? Have you thought how He lived? No man ever spoke like He spoke, or worked like He worked. He never made a mistake, neither with friends nor with enemies. Not with the weak nor with the strong. He never had to apologize. He was with God on creation's morn and made all things (John 1:2, 3.) Yet have you thought how He borrowed a stable to be born in, borrowed a boat to cross the lake, borrowed a tomb for His bruised body to be buried in?

Have you thought how He aimed for the cross? He taught His disciples "that the Son of man must suffer many things..." (Continued on Page 4)



Rev. Norman Lewis

Talk About Evangelists

By the Editor

Recently a pastor's wife from a small mountain community in a southern state wrote this editor a rather bitter letter. She had read in THE SWORD OF THE LORD of the great revivals conducted by leading evangelists. How she would like to see and hear these evangelists herself! What a thrill the people of that little church would have to hear some nationally famous men, she said. But she had written one evangelist who is continually used of God in great city-wide revival campaigns. He had very courteously told her that he could not feel it right to turn down an invitation to preach to thousands and win hundreds in a city-wide campaign, in order to come and preach to the handful in the church of which her husband was pastor. Many evangelists were available who would be glad to do revival and evangelistic preaching in that church, but none would do except some man who was famous and who would turn down city-wide revival campaigns in order to come!

She offered to pay coach fare, round trip, if one of the leading evangelists used in city-wide campaigns would come to her community, but of course, she said, there would be no offering. And if some of us evangelists did not turn down larger campaigns to come to preach in her church, she felt sure it must be because we were all preaching just because of the money. I give my answer to her letter here, to show the unreason-

ableness of such criticism of evangelists.

All Preachers Should Preach to the Largest Crowds Possible, Win as Many Souls as Possible

"June 5, 1947

"Dear Mrs. ———:

"I have your letter of May 30 and have read it very carefully and very prayerfully. And I am (Continued on Page 6)

A Visitor In The Night

By DR. MONROE PARKER

Assistant to the President, Bob Jones University, Greenville, S. C.

(Sermon preached July 11, 1947, at Sword of the Lord Conference on Evangelism, Winona Lake, Indiana. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

I believe in the definite leadership of the Holy Spirit in one's preaching. Some time ago I was going down to Miami to hold a meeting in the First Presbyterian Church. I received a letter from the chairman of the publicity committee asking me to send a list of my subjects, and what subject I would preach on at each time. I wrote back and said, "I cannot tell you before the meeting begins just what subject I will use at each successive stage of the campaign any more than I could tell you, if I were calling signals for a football game, what signal I would call at each successive play, before the kickoff of the game. I don't know because I believe in letting the Spirit of God lead."

This morning I feel very definitely led to bring a simple gospel message, but one that will help ministers, evangelists and layman, as well as unsaved people. I am using this very familiar passage from the third chapter of John.

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night."

Nicodemus Came at Night

Evidently Nicodemus was troubled. It must have been that there was a lack in his soul, and he was conscious of the fact that he had come to Jesus at night. The craving in his soul was so intense he could not have waited until morning. There was a burning desire to know God. So he came to Jesus at night. There are those who tell us that Nicodemus came at night because he was afraid of persecution on the part of the Jews. Others tell us that he came at night because he was a busy man and did not have time to come through the day. There may be something to either one of these suggestions, but I believe he came because he wanted to know God. And he came to Him who is the way to God, and said, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God."

Blindness of the Natural Mind

Now everybody who comes to Jesus comes under the cover of darkness. It may not be physical darkness, but spiritual darkness. For every soul without the Lord Jesus Christ is groping in the dark. If you are without Christ this morning, you are groping in darkness as black as Hell's sable badge. Every soul without Christ is groping without light. The natural man, literally the psychical man, (that is where we get our word psychology) we might say the mental man, receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God. They are foolishness to him. He can't know them because they are spiritually discerned. The natural man of the world cannot even understand the Christian, let alone the things of God.

Sometime ago I handed a man on the street corner a card and invited him to come out to some special services which were being held. He tore up the card, threw it down and began to curse and blaspheme God. I said, "Friend, I feel sorry for you." I started down the street and he followed me a half block.

He said, "Wait a minute! Don't you feel sorry for me?"

"Well," I said, "I can't help it. I feel sorry for you."

He said, "I feel sorry for you." I said, "Thank you, sir. And I

feel sorry for you."

He said, "Don't you feel sorry for me?"

I said, "I can't help it. I feel sorry for you, sir."

He said, "I feel sorry for you."

I said, "Friend, there was a time when I was outside the temple of salvation. I had never seen inside the temple, but one day, thank God, I entered this wonderful temple and have seen on the inside. I have seen outside and I have seen inside. You have never seen inside."

If you haven't been born again you cannot see the things of God; you have no eyes with which to see. The man without God cannot see spiritual things.

Jesus said this to Nicodemus. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," let alone enter it. He can't see it. He can't see it because he doesn't have eyes with which to see. He is in the dark. Oh, that men could at least see themselves! I believe that God gives that much conviction to the unsaved person, to see his need, to see that he needs more light. And if a person will accept what light he has, he will have more light. But of course he has to accept Him who is the light of the world.



Dr. Monroe Parker

I read a beautiful story of a little fellow who was born blind. His name was Charlie. He was about eight or nine years of age when a famous specialist looked at his eyes and said, "I see no reason why little Charlie should not be able to see." He performed the operation, took his delicate in-

(Continued on Page 2)

THE GLORY IN ONE DAY'S MAIL

1. Army Major saved Through "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" Booklet.
2. Soldier's Wife in Japan Saved Through Pamphlet, A Good Man Lost and a Bad Man Saved.
3. Catholic Man in Gary, Indiana, Saved Through Booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"
4. American Sailor in the Pacific Saved Through Booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"
5. Philippine Islander Saved Through Pamphlet, Religious But Lost.
6. Native of Cagayan Saved Through Booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"

By the Editor

The daily mail is the very lifeblood of Sword of the Lord Publishers. In the mail come nearly all of our subscriptions for THE SWORD OF THE LORD. In the mail are orders for books and pamphlets both from individuals and from book stores and agents. The mail contains all the correspondence of the Sword Book Club. It contains personal letters to the editor, requests for revivals, manuscripts offered for publication. There are always letters from people in trouble with homes, broken by sin or sickness for which they ask prayer. There are bills to be paid, circulars, magazines, catalogs, tracts. Many write to thank God for the blessings received through our literature. Some write, of course, in sharpest criticism. Today a woman wrote for money. The mail is very important at the Sword of the Lord office.

No one could read our mail for

a few days without feeling that here is a work tremendously blessed of God. The stories of men called out to preach the gospel, of Christians who have laid all on the altar for Christ because of a book or an article in THE SWORD OF THE LORD or a tract; accounts of revivals in churches, and city-wide campaigns; the profound gratitude of people helped prove beyond any doubt that all that God is in this blessed work.

But the happiest news that ever comes to us is the news in practically every mail of souls wonderfully saved through Sword of the Lord literature.

For example, the mail of yesterday, August 6, brought letters from six people who say they found Christ as Saviour through the literature which we publish. Most of these booklets and pamphlets were given free. The six (Continued on Page 5)

A Visitor in the Night

(Continued from Page 1)

struments and clipped away that old filmy stuff that prevented his sight and placed thirty-two bandages over his eyes and around his head and said to his mother, "Take off one bandage each day. Don't take off more than one at a time because if you do the light will be so strong it will blind him again." The mother followed instructions until at last there was one bandage left. She went to the phone, called the doctor and said, "I want you to come out and see the results of the operation." The doctor hurried out and when he looked at little Charlie, he said, "Let the first thing he sees be something beautiful; he will never forget it. It will make a lasting impression upon him." They took him out to the flower garden. It was a beautiful morning. The sun poured a golden sea of loveliness out into the garden. Little Charlie stood facing a bush of roses. His mother stood there by the roses, gowned in a beautiful morning dress, and his father stood by her side. The doctor stood behind the little fellow with the scissors in his hand. As he clipped the bandage and it fell to the ground, for the first time in all of his life little Charlie saw the light. At first he closed his eyes, then he opened them gradually and blinked a few times and closed them and held them closed for a moment. Then when he opened them, he could see dimly out in the distance the trees bowing gently in the morning breeze. Then when he closed his eyes for a moment more and opened them, his vision was clear. There stood his mother in a beautiful dress. There was his father, and all the beauty of the garden. He said, "Mother, Mother, why didn't you tell me it was half so beautiful!" She said, "I tried to, Charlie, but you were blind and couldn't see."

Sometimes we talk about the joys of the Christian life. We talk about the glory of God, and we talk of the peace of God that passeth understanding. People who are without Christ say, "We can't see. We don't see a thing!" Of course you can't see. But if you will come to the great Occluser of Heaven, the great Eye-Opener and let Him take His instruments of love and mercy and clip away that old scale of sin that prevents your sight, then you will be able to see; you will be able to sing with that host of others who sing so triumphantly:

At the cross, at the cross
where I first saw the
light,
And the burden of my
heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I re-

ceived my sight,
And now I am happy all the
day!

Jesus Will Give You Sight

A young fellow came into my office one day under conviction. He said, "You were preaching to me in chapel this morning."

I said, "Yes, sir."

He said, "Well, I want to get right. I have been thinking about it and I want to be a Christian." (He was the only student in the school who was not a professing Christian.) He said, "I want to be a Christian, but I don't see anything to it. I know there must be something to it. These other young people around here seem so happy. They have something I do not have. They are happy. I know they are! But I can't see it. I just don't see anything to it. All I can see is just going to church, singing songs, praying prayers, going through forms and ceremonies, not doing certain things, and then doing certain other things. I can't see anything to religion."

"Well," I said, "my friend, you have no eyes with which to see. Of course you can't see! What you need is to let Jesus Christ open your eyes, then you will be able to see; you will be able to sing:

Amazing grace! how sweet
the sound,
That saved a wretch like
me!

I once was lost, but now am
found,

Was blind, but now I see.

Thank God, Jesus will give you your sight! You can see. Nicodemus came under the cover of darkness to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

Necessity of the New Birth

Jesus turned those soul-searching eyes into the heart of Nicodemus and said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus did not understand what He was talking about and said, "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee.... That which is born of the flesh is flesh." In other words, He said, "Nicodemus, I am not talking about the first birth. I am not talking about the natural birth. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That is why you have to be born again. That which is born of the flesh is flesh."

Paul said, "In my flesh dwells no good thing." There is nothing good in you, in the flesh. There is nothing good in your flesh.

The Flesh Is Sinful

We read a great deal in our day about the spark of divinity in human nature. There is nothing divine about human nature. And if there is anything divine about you it is because you, by simple faith, have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour; it is because you have received a new nature; it is because the Holy Spirit has wrought in you a new birth, and the nature of Christ has been imparted to you and you have become a child of God by simple faith in Jesus Christ. But that which is born of the flesh is flesh. It can't be anything else. It may be cultured flesh; it may be eloquent flesh; it may be refined flesh; it may even be restrained flesh, but it is flesh. It can't be anything else! It may be religious flesh; it may join the church and be baptized, but it is flesh. It may be preaching flesh. There are preachers who have not been born again.

A Sinner May Preach

I was conducting a radio program in Philadelphia and was invited to come to a certain community nearby and preach one day and night. I went out and preached and the pastor came forward. He said, "I have never been born again, but I am going to take Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. I have preached the new birth; I have preached Jesus; I

have preached the Bible, but I have not been born again. In fact," he said, "I have depended upon my preaching and upon my good life and the things I knew, but I haven't been born again. By the grace of God, tonight I am going to cast myself upon Jesus and Him alone."

A Sinner May Teach Sunday School

That which is born of the flesh is flesh. It may be religious flesh. I was teaching Sunday School when I found Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I had never been born again. That morning it dawned on me that I needed Him. I was reading my Bible. I was studying Sunday School lessons. I was teaching Sunday School. I was living a pretty decent life, but I didn't have Jesus. I didn't have life. What I am talking to you about this morning is a miracle. I am saying to you that that which is born of the flesh and merely born of the flesh, is flesh. Nicodemus was a religious man. Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews. He was a very religious man. But Jesus said, "Nicodemus, you haven't even got eyes with which to see, and you have no ears with which to hear. 'Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for those that love Him.' You can't understand these things, Nicodemus. You have to be born again. You have got to get some spiritual intelligence before you can take them in. That which is born of the flesh is flesh."

And there are some unsaved people in this service this morning. I believe that God is leading very definitely in my preaching along this line. I understand that there are some people present who need to be born again, and I have been praying that God would lead. I had planned to preach another message, but there are some people here who have just been born of the flesh, haven't been born of the Spirit and who need to be born again.

Men Are Sinners

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is none righteous. Say, the fact of sin is a fact that I do not have to prove. Anybody who is willing to admit that life is real has got to admit the fact of sin. We have been talking about blasting sin, preaching against certain sins. I believe in it; I believe in it with all my heart. The Holy Spirit convicts of this sin, that sin and the other sin because people believe not on Jesus Christ. That is why they are in sin, because they believe not on Jesus. Somebody has said that isn't so much of a sin question as it is a Son question. True that is. It is a Son question. But the Spirit of God convicts men of particular sins because they believe not on Jesus Christ. I do not believe it is a matter of cutting out this sin or that sin. I do not believe in just cutting the limbs off the tree of sin. That isn't enough. It isn't enough just to jump on this, or cut this out, then cut this out, and cut that out. But the reason the fruits of sin grow on the tree of sin is that tree has a sinful nature.

Dr. Jones so often says, "Men are not sinners because they sin; they sin because they are sinners." He says, "Liars are not liars because they lie; they lie because they are liars." And "thieves are not thieves because they steal; they steal because they are thieves." It depends upon what one is at heart. And sinners are not sinners because they sin; they sin because they are sinners. A Christian is not a Christian because he lives a Christian life; he lives a Christian life because he

Another Tragic Story By Dr. Bob Jones

Here is another story. I want you to read it. A few years ago I was preaching in a city where there is located a rather well-known educational institution. One night on my way to my hotel from the evening service I found a sad-faced young man on the street. I tried to talk to him about his soul but he did not seem inclined to talk. I invited him to my room at the hotel. He accepted the invitation. It took me a few minutes to get the young fellow to express himself. But at last he told me this awful story. "My father died three months before I was born. He had been well-to-do but he lost all he had just before he died. He did, however, leave me a good name. The beautiful home where I was born was sold under mortgage. My plucky mother rented a little house on a back street and got a job to support herself and take care of me. I grew up in Sunday school and church. I am not boasting about it, but I had the reputation of being the brightest boy who ever graduated from high school in our town. The day I graduated the little auditorium was full. Mother was in the audience. Her face was beaming. I received every honor it was possible for a boy to get. I won the medal for the best athlete. I won the scholarship medal. I was voted the most popular student in school. It was a great day. My mother sat in the audience and smiled at me through her tears. When the exercises were over I left the platform to get to my mother. But the crowd flocked around me and stopped me for a minute. Mother is a timid little woman, so she slipped out of the room so people would not see her crying. I ran down the back street to the little cottage and found mother with tears flowing down her face. I put my diploma and my medals in her lap. I leaned down and kissed her tears away. 'What are your plans, now, my son?' mother asked. 'I am going to work and support you, mother, and you will never have to do another day's work. You have been such a wonderful mother to see me through high school.' Mother smiled and said, 'You are going to college this fall.' 'How am I going to college?' I asked. 'I have no money.' 'I have the money', mother replied. 'Ever since you were a little baby and I began to work I saved a little money each week, sometimes \$2.00, sometimes \$3.00, but always \$1.00. I have the money in the savings bank and I have enough to send you through a university.' My heart, of course, leaped for joy. Last fall my mother packed my trunk and put her own Bible in the tray of the trunk—the Bible over which she had prayed and over which she had wept. When I came to Blank University I had never smoked. I had never drunk whiskey and I was as pure as the purest girl who ever lived. I entered the dormitory and took my mother's Bible out of the tray of the trunk and laid it on the table. Some of the students laughed at me and called me a country boy who has come to town. Some of them said, 'He will get over that when he is here for a while. Wait until he takes biology. That prof will fix him. The Bible is all right for

country people and for ignorant folks, but we have outgrown that old-time religion stuff.' I paid no attention to them. I read my Bible and said my prayers and on Sunday morning went to Sunday School and church. At last I got in the biology class. You have got to hand it to that teacher. He is a better psychologist than he is a biologist. He dropped doubts in my mind every time I went to class. Little by little he broke down my religious resistance. After a while I lost my faith. I was very miserable but I tried to be decent for my mother's sake. I do love my mother, but I could not stay decent. I had lost the inward urge. One night I went out with the boys and I have been living in awful sin ever since. I have been drunk for six weeks. I have gambled away the money that mother saved and I have run around with wicked women. Today I had a letter from my mother. She will be here tomorrow. I can't see her. I just could not look at her. She thinks I am pure. She thinks I am the same boy I was when I left her a few months ago. I just could not stand to look into her eyes. If I did look at her I could not kiss her for I have an unspeakable disease. I have made up my mind to go downtown in the morning before mother gets here and buy a gun and blow out my brains. If there is a hell as my mother's Bible says, it isn't any worse than the hell I am in."

My friends, remember for many years I have been dealing with people in my evangelistic campaigns. I have met literally hundreds of young people who went away to college and lost their faith and many of them have lost their morals. The most critical day in the life of a young person is the day he goes off to a college or a university. Having had so much experience, I am sure you can understand why I founded Bob Jones College which is now Bob Jones University. I wanted to do all I could to train Christian leaders and to prove that the highest standards of scholarship can go hand in hand with an evangelistic spirit. I wanted to show the world that there are thousands of young people who could be trained for Christian leadership if they could attend an institution with high educational standards, with an atmosphere of culture and with a strong evangelistic emphasis. Now, remember, we need help. We need financial assistance. You have money to invest. We want you to invest some of that money in the work of Bob Jones University. We are not asking rationalistic, modernistic, atheistic, behavioristic people to help us. We are asking you Christian people to send us some money to complete payments on the present buildings. When we get these buildings financed, we are starting new buildings to take care of more students. I am confident that every Christian who reads this can invest some amount of money, so we are counting on your helping us and doing it at once. Please write us and send a financial contribution to Bob Jones University, Greenville, S. C. Thank you and God bless you.

BOB JONES
(Advertisement)

is a Christian at heart."

A "Naturally-Born" Sinner

A young fellow, a defeated Christian, came to my office. He was in the condition that Dr. Wells preached about this morn-

ing. He was a babe in Christ. He had taken some set-backs. He was a defeated Christian. He came in, sat down across the desk from me and started to cry. He dropped

(Continued on Page 3)

DO YOU KNOW?

- All changes of address and renewal should be sent in at least one month in advance.
- All such changes should be reported directly to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, 214 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, Illinois, rather than through your local post office.
- Both old and new addresses should be included when notifying us of a change.
- Subscriptions should be marked NEW or RENEWAL on the subscription coupon.
- Your NAME and ADDRESS should be printed or typed carefully exactly as it appears on your address label or better yet clip an address label from an old paper. (If there is an error in the way your name appears on the address label, please send the old address label together with the desired change.)
- Payment should be made by check or postal money order, for your safety.

(If you receive a renewal notice after you have renewed please disregard it unless you fail to receive the paper.)

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EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE
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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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A Visitor in the Night

(Continued from Page 2)

his head on my desk, I laid my hand on his shoulder across the table, and I said, "What is the matter, Son?"

He looked up at me: "Dr. Parker, I must be a naturally-born sinner."

I said, "You certainly are. That is exactly what you are. So am I. So is every Christian. We are naturally-born sinners—but nature must not be the rule of the Christian. And of course, people who are not Christians are sinners. We are born sinners. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. Born sinners! It is as natural for man to sin as it is for him to breathe. It is as natural for man to sin as it is for the sparks to fly upward. You are a born sinner, for you are born of the flesh. And all have sinned! All have completed the act of sinning! That is a certain Greek tense which denotes completed action. All have sinned. When Adam sinned, the human race sinned, and therefore, all are coming short of the glory of God. All have completed the act of sinning and are coming short of the glory of God. That is why people need to be born again. They are sinners."

This young fellow was a defeated Christian. He said, "I am just a naturally-born sinner." I took the Word of God and I pointed to Romans the third chapter, and then I went to the seventh chapter. I took this passage and I said, "Now you listen, you follow me here." I turned it to him so he could see it. And I read, "When I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am!"

Backslider, the Most Miserable Person

I want to say this morning, the most wretched person in all the world is a Christian out of fellowship with Jesus Christ. He is more miserable than a person who never knew God. A Christian out of fellowship—say, you can never be happy without the will of God in your life. After you have known God, you can never be happy with sin. Somebody said, "Can a Christian sin?" He may sin, but he can't enjoy it. He ought not, he doesn't have to, and God says, "I write these things unto you that you may not sin." You don't have to. But if you do, you can't enjoy it.

This fellow said, "Well, that is my picture, that is my trouble."

"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" And then it was as though the Apostle thought of the only One who is in the delivering business. And he must have shouted with an exultant cry, or perhaps he pressed hard on the parchment as he wrote: "I thank God that through Jesus Christ..." He is the Deliverer. He can deliver from the penalty of it. He can deliver from the power of it. I do not have to be a defeated Christian. I can rise about the carnal. I can walk on a higher plane. I can have victory through Jesus Christ. As a preacher, as an evangelist, as a pastor, as a teacher, as an ordinary Christian, I can be separated unto the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is where you will find your victory.

Victory

When the Christian Missionary Alliance were in convention, one group said, "You will have to be eradicated." The other group said, "You will have to suppress yourselves. They said, 'eradication,' 'suppression.' They argued about it. Say, I don't care what you call it. Down at Bob Jones College we have black-eyed peas sometimes on Saturday. It is a good Saturday dish. In the south we call them black-eyed peas. You call them beans because you do not see them often. They look like your beans but they are peas,

so the Southerners say. Well, we have a controversy about it often because we have every state in the union represented at the college.

One noon-time, at my table, a Yankee said, "Pass the beans."

A rebel down at the other end of the table said, "You mean the peas?"

"No, I mean the beans."

"I don't see any beans. There are some peas here."

"I want those beans."

"All right, I will pass the peas."

After awhile the Southerner said, "Will you pass the peas, please?"

The northern fellow said, "You mean the beans, don't you?"

He said, "No, I mean the peas."

Somebody spoke up and said, "What are they, Dr. Parker?"

I said, "I don't know, but when you are through with them, will you pass them to me, please? I am more interested in having a helping of them than in knowing just what to call them, especially at this time." I would rather have the right thing by the wrong name than the wrong thing by the right name.

But they were arguing about whether it was eradication or suppression. Paul said, "Reckon yourselves dead to sin." And he said, "I die daily." So if you want to be eradicated, if you want to reckon yourself dead for practical purposes, that is perfectly all right; just don't kid yourself and get the idea that you can't sin. Don't get the idea that the old nature is so dead it can't have a resurrection. But reckon yourself dead, dead as far as separation from sin is concerned, and then if you want to suppress yourself, well that is all right.

Rising Above the Carnal

Paul said, "I keep my body under, I suppress myself, I sock myself under the eye; literally, I knock myself down so that I can have victory over myself because this old nature, this old flesh cries out for sin and it has a sinful principle in it, and it wants to disobey God but my Spirit doesn't want it to. How can I conquer it? Knock it down—yes! Reckon it dead—yes! Suppression or eradication, we need both but we will conquer by rising above the Carnal."

When the Alliance was arguing about it, Dr. A. B. Simpson, the wise leader, stood up and said, "Brother, it is neither one: it is habitation. It is being filled with the Spirit of God." It is rising above self, to the Lord Jesus. But when you rise above self, you have to reckon yourself dead, you see. You have got to conquer self, but you will do it by turning to Christ. They turned to God from idols, not from idols to God. I believe it does say, "From idols to God" in one place, but it is all one in the same act. One is the negative aspect; the other is the positive. Like faith is positive and repentance is negative. Repent-

ance is faith in action. It is turning from sin to God. I turned to God from sin. It takes place all the same time.

Perhaps you have heard Dr. Harrison's illustration: We shoot a bullet into a board. He wants to know whether the bullet or the bullet hole gets there first. I don't know, but it all happens. When you shoot a pistol and the bullet goes into a plank, the bullet hole and the bullet get there so near the same time that it doesn't make much difference, as far as I can see.

People are born sinners. Naturally, they are sinners. That is the thing that holds back the power, blocks revival and thwarts the power of God in the life of a Christian.

I shall never forget one day when I walked out of a church. I had preached as one fighting the air. My life was clean as far as moral things are concerned. Yet I had been very selfish. And I had preached without power that morning. I walked out into the woods and I knelt down and said, "God, I refuse to ever preach again without the power of God." I won't do it! This job is too big. I had rather be anything—I had rather be a bootlegger; I had rather be a crook than to be a preacher without power in my life. I had rather die a thousand times than to be a preacher without the power of God. I would do more good anywhere on earth than

to stand in the pulpit like a dog in the manger. What did Jesus say to those hypocrites? He said, "You whitened sepulchres you! You are full of rottenness within you. You are all white on the outside but you are dogs in the manger." He didn't put it in those words, but He said, "You shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."

I was defeated that morning. I went out in the woods and said, "God, I want to bury myself." I dug a little hole in the ground and said, "I am going to put all my sins in this little grave," and I covered it up and put a little mound on top of it and stuck a stick at each end. I put my hand down on the mound and said, "I am going to leave my sins here." I was kneeling there in the dirt, crying over my sins.

The Spirit of God said, "You can't leave your sins here."

I said, "Why God?"

He said, "They are not here. They are under the blood of Jesus Christ. They are back at Calvary. They are blotted out."

I said, "God, is that true?" Yes, the moment I judged myself God cleansed. Confessions doesn't mean merely lip-confession; it involves repentance. It contains heart attitude. It isn't enough to say, "I have sinned. Forgive me, God." Then sin again. Then, "Forgive me God." Sin again, and say, "For-

give me, God." But I am saying, there is victory even though men are born sinners.

Fact of Sin

"That which is born of flesh is flesh." I do not have to prove that. You are guilty of sin. It is a fact of human experience. It is a fact of observation.

Down in Alabama one day a man rushed upon the porch of a home where I was visiting and said, "I heard a gun fire and someone screamed." We rushed across the street to another home and there was the mute evidence of a suicide. There was a double-barrel shotgun on the floor and a walking cane with which the man evidently had pushed the trigger. A puddle of blood was on the floor and just over the hole where the full charge of the shot went through his heart the man's shirt was powder burned. We had to wait for the coroner. We waited. Somebody said, "His wife was out of town and he was here alone." Somebody else said this was the bitter end of a sinful life. I looked at that expression on his dead face, that horror written on his countenance. I stood there and I began to think the bitter end of a sinful life. I watched the red blood as it oozed from his heart and I saw it as it began to drip into little puddles at his side. Drip! Drip! Drip! I tell you, my friends, it seemed to me that from every blighted life and every

(Continued on Page 4)

WINSTON-SALEM NEWSPAPER APPLAUDS UNION REVIVAL

The Sunday morning edition of the Winston-Salem Journal and the Twin City Sentinel for August 10, 1947, had a very kindly leading editorial concerning the union revival campaign in progress there. We reproduce their editorial here photostatically because we are impressed with what the editor of an influential daily newspaper thinks about the importance of co-operation of churches for revival.

There was a time when churches regularly got fine news coverage in daily papers. There was a time when churches were the strongest single influence in political affairs. There was a time when the school systems of our cities were largely dominated and properly so by the moral standards of church people.

We make bold to say that all of this was because, in great union revival campaigns, the churches learned cooperation and made the impact felt on the general public.

Now the Catholics, with fewer numbers than Protestants, have far more influence on the movies, the radio, the newspapers, the school systems, the city, state and national governments. Protestants, not united as Catholics are, need to cooperate on the great central matters of revival, soul-winning and righteousness on which Bible-believing Christians are agreed. Great union revival campaigns are an absolute necessity if Bible-believing Christians are to have their proper say in the moral and spiritual life of our cities and of

the nation.

Saturday afternoon we had a tremendous parade. Scores of cars and trucks carrying hundreds of people with streamers, banners and signs were escorted by motorcycle police. Three of us led the parade, mounted on beautiful horses. Trucks full of children sang gospel choruses. Two loud-speaker systems played records. We believe that the impression of unity among Bible-believing Christians made a very strong impression on the whole city as we went through the principal downtown streets and then proceeded to the Liberty Warehouse for a big children's rally. The following morning the editorial reproduced here appeared in the Sunday paper.

Editorial Page

"Moral

JOURNAL and SENTINEL

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"If the choice were left to me whether to have a free press or a free government I would choose a free press"—Thomas Jefferson.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 1947

Splendid Example of Co-operation

The city-wide revival services now being conducted in Winston-Salem by Dr. John R. Rice are meeting with a high measure of success, with large crowds at Liberty Warehouse for the evening services and attending the early morning services at First Presbyterian Church.

This is due in large measure to the unique eloquence and persuasive power of the speaker, Dr. Rice, the inspiring song service and other features of the meetings which appeal to conscientious people.

Dr. Rice, who obtained his A. B. degree from Baylor University and his D. D. from Los Angeles Theological Seminary, served ten years in the pastorate before entering evangelism. For 19 years he has been active in the radio ministry as well as in the evangelistic field. He is the editor of a religious periodical, "The Sword of the Lord," which has a circulation of 50,000, and has written 43 books and pamphlets on religious topics. He has conducted city-wide union campaigns, such as the one which has been in progress here for the past three weeks, in many

large cities throughout the country.

But another vital factor in the success of the services, which are to continue for another week, is the spirit of unity and co-operation shown by the 42 co-operating churches, representing eight different denominations, which are sponsoring this city-wide revival.

The co-operation of these churches is based upon a common desire to improve the moral welfare of the community and the realization that all Christian churches have a common over-all objective. Through their unified efforts and the inspired preaching of Dr. Rice, one of the outstanding evangelists of the Nation, hundreds of Winston-Salem and Forsyth people undoubtedly will lead better lives.

If the forces for good are to bring order, decency, prosperity and peace to a world torn by conflict and immersed in chaos they must join forces, pool their resources and move into action as a unit. The success of the city-wide revival here is but another of the many vivid reminders of this impelling need for co-operation among good will groups and individuals everywhere.

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The Prodigal Son's Epitaph

(Continued from Page 1)

and be killed." He set His face like a flint to go up to Jerusalem. He knew He had come from Heaven to hang on a cross. He said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying

what death he should die" (John 12:32, 33).

One of Holman Hunt's beautiful pictures shows Jesus Christ in the carpenter shop of Nazareth. Around Him are the saws, hammers, and other tools. Christ is represented as rising from the

A Visitor in the Night

(Continued from Page 3)

broken home and every wrecked virtue and from every home of valor and want, and from every prison cell and from every battlefield — from all the scourges of humanity caused by sin, there arose to God the piteous cry: "How long, O God?" How long will sin curse us! How long will sin crush and damn and blight!"

Sin Is to Blame

Sin has blighted the world. You had as well say there was no war raging a few months ago as to say there is no sin. You had as well say there is no suffering, there is no sorrow, as to say there is no sin, because sin always causes sorrow in the heart of an individual, or in the life of a nation. Collectively or individually, sin brings sorrow. Of course the innocent suffer with the guilty, for the guilty, on account of the guilty and more than the guilty, oftentimes, but sin causes sorrow.

I was in Detroit holding a meeting some years ago and a man came forward one night, came into the inquiry room. He said, "I am the world's champion professional ski jumper. Last winter I fell on skis and was badly injured. I was reared a Christian Scientist. From the time I was a little child, I was taught that there was no such thing as pain. I was also taught there was no such thing as sin, but if a man sinned, he just thought he sinned. He didn't actually sin. He was just in error, that was all. He just had the wrong outlook on things. And if he thought he was hurt, he was just in error. He wasn't actually hurt." (Like the little boy who said, "Mother, you know the sick lady down the street?" She said, "The lady who thinks she is sick, darling." "Well," he said, "she thinks she is dead now.") He said, "I was badly hurt. They came to my bedside and told me I was in error." He said, "That fall broke the spell of hypnosis. I could no longer kid myself about it. I had to admit that pain was real. But when I was willing to admit the pain was real I had to admit the fact of sin." He said, "I am so glad I came here tonight and heard about how I could get rid of my sins."

Symptoms of the Disease

You can't get around the fact of sin. It is an awful fact. Now of course our business isn't merely to tear down, isn't merely to point out sin. Special sins are symptoms of a disease. Men do not go to Hell for committing murder. They murder because they are going to Hell. Men do not go to Hell for stealing. They steal because their hearts are not right and because they are going to Hell. Men do not go to Hell for dancing. They may block somebody else and send somebody else to Hell, and dancing may involve worse sins, and it is dangerous, and it is terrible, and Christians ought not to have anything to do with it; it is of the world and it is savage.

You perhaps heard Dr. Pace some years ago illustrate it. I cannot do it like Dr. Pace did—I have my own idea about it—but have you ever noticed the difference in jazz music and good music? Let somebody play a classical piece; it appeals to intellect. Some people nod their heads, others listen quietly, but it appeals to the intellect—sometimes to the emotions, but to the intellect primarily. Let somebody sing like Mrs. Barth, let somebody sing an old hymn, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"—Dr. Pace said there was a rest. "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"—a rest. He said there is no rest in jazz music. And I have noticed that. I lay in a hotel room the other night; there was a dance somewhere across the way. I just heard hundreds of beats without a break

—just one right after the other. I used to dance. I say it to my shame. It kept me away from God for a long time. I was very worldly. I have seen hundreds of young people swept into a world of sin, I mean bad sin, through the influence of the dance. I know what it will do.

The Dance

Come with me, and let us, just in our imagination, go to a dance. We walk in. Here are a group of fellows out in the center of the hall somewhere. This is an ordinary scrip dance. They are out there, keeping time with the music, walking around—sissy-looking fellows, snapping their fingers. A fellow comes in, takes his girl in his arms and begins to dance around the room. A fellow sees her, likes her looks, goes over and tags the fellow, takes this strange girl in his arms. At some dances one must have an introduction, but that doesn't make much difference. Suppose he is introduced to her. He takes this strange girl he has just met in his arms; they dance together around the room. He says, "Where have you been all my life?" She says, "I have been looking for you," and all that, you know. Away in the corner, or on the platform somewhere, there is the orchestra and they are playing. The air is filled with smoke. You know there is such a thing as mental telepathy. I don't understand it, but my mind communicates with your mind. Very often my wife, who is now in Heaven, and I had a very strong tie that way. So often I would say such and such a thing, and she would say, "I was thinking about that." One morning I said, "Guess whom I am thinking about?" It was a person I had not thought of in five or six years. She called the name of that person. I do not understand it, but telepathy is real. Psychology teaches that. Telepathy is real, scientific.

Here is this atmosphere, with all kinds of thought-waves, the very atmosphere charged with them, and the music of the dance. Now don't laugh. Let nobody laugh at this. I do not know these latest pieces. I have heard them—you can't help it. You go into a hotel or restaurant. I wish they had silent records where you could drop quarter or a nickel in the slot and a blank record would play for five minutes and you drop in another. I would be willing to pay my share for the silence. But you hear all these pieces, you know. But I don't know them. But I go way back yonder into ancient history before I was a Christian, and get one. (Drumming on the pulpit, Dr. Parker sings)

When the fire is warm and cozy,
And the old folks are away—

don't laugh—now listen: What do I hear? Why, it is the tom-toms! What do I see? Naked savages leaping in the light of a jungle fire. Can you take the body, the temple of the Holy Ghost, into an atmosphere like that, and dance to the glory of God? I do not believe you can. It is not of God. It is of the world. It is of the devil! It is of Hell. It's Satanic. It's carnal. It's sinful. I make no apologies and pull no punches when talking about it. But people do not go to Hell for dancing. They live sinful lives because they are sinners. They do these things because they are born that way and need to be born again. Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered? Thank God there is a physician and there is a remedy! The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all

(Continued on Page 8)

work bench and wearily stretching out His arms as is natural after being long in one position. And the light of the picture is so placed that the arms of Christ wearily stretched out, together with His body, throw on the wall the shadow of the cross. My friend, that shadow was with Christ all His life. Shadow of a cross on the Bethlehem manger. Shadow of a cross on blue Galilee. Shadow of a cross in the temple where He taught. Shadow of a cross where He wrought His miracles. Shadow of a cross where He fought Satan. Shadow of a cross on morning sky and evening sky. The conqueror Constantine just once saw a cross upon the sky. Christ saw it all the time.

Oh, it is grand to think how Christ loved us and how He died to save us. He did for His foes what no man could do even for His friends. He bore our guilt. He suffered our stripes. He paid our debt. He redeemed us with His own blood. Think of Jesus Christ dying on the cross for you.

Look Ahead

"I thought on my ways." What no one else could do for him, this man did for himself. The preacher can point, but you must look. The preacher can talk, but you must think. Think on your ways. You came from somewhere, you are here, and going somewhere. The Bible says, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). Every sinner must get to Christ now or face that judgment one day, lost and undone. God offers you salvation. Will you take it? Think!

An English soldier was converted at the front and wrote home to his mother, "This war had to occur that I might be saved." Showing this letter to her minister the mother remarked that the boy was exaggerating the importance of his salvation. But the godly man said, "Not only this war, but Calvary had to occur to save your boy." That deserves to be thought about!

II. "Turned My Feet . . . Made Haste and Delayed Not"

The old Bible is awfully practical: it tells you your head and feet must both go right. You can't get your head into Heaven while your feet are in Hell. Some feet are following hard after wickedness whose owners think their heads will save them. My friend, get your head, heart and feet turned toward God.

There is the parable of Jesus. "A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not; but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir; and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you" (Matt. 21:28-31). A gang of "wise guys" thought they were smart enough to argue with Jesus, but their lives were all wrong. Jesus said they were still lost, still undone. But the publicans and harlots, whom everybody knew were damned, looked square at God's offer of forgiveness, quit their sins, fled to Jesus, and got saved.

Think of the prodigal son in the hogpen in a far country starving to death. He thought about the bread and gravy, with plenty left over in his father's house. He thought. Get it? But he couldn't just think himself out of the hogpen. He had to give those thoughts the support of feet and body. "I will arise, and go," he said, "and he arose and came to his father." And how that glad father rushed to hug his boy to his heart! Oh, believe it, friend. Just as soon as you will admit your sin has put you in the hogpen, and rise up, even staggering, toward God, God will run and put His arms around you, kiss you and forgive you as did the prodigal's father.

Going: Which Way?

Oh, this matter of getting your feet turned right is so important in this wicked world! So many have lost their compass! I remember a two-week canoe trip

on the Canadian border. After paddling twenty-five miles the last day my pal and I reached our car at midnight. He had to be home next day, so we started driving. Each was to drive one hour while the other slept, then change about. I thought my pal cheated me each time because I no more got to sleep before he was shaking me awake. I drove through Virginia, Minnesota, heading down out of the Iron Range country. But at my next spell at the wheel I flashed by a sign pointing ahead with the word "Virginia." A bit later I saw another sign: "Virginia—still ahead." I knew we had already passed Virginia. My foggy, tired brain tried to grapple with the problem. Something was wrong. Sure enough. My pal in passing through a town had driven clean around a block, and right out of town, backtracking the way we had come.

And we never would have gotten home had I not turned around and followed the well-marked way. Oh, dear friend, turn to Christ, head and feet, and follow the well-marked way. The Bible keeps pointing to Christ and He will take you home to Glory.

But God's invitation is urgent. "I made haste and delayed not." Wise words! "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2). "Today" is God's word; "tomorrow" is the Devil's. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what the day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1). Why not settle the matter right now?

Paul the apostle almost got wicked old Felix to repent to be saved. But Felix wouldn't face the idea of "now." Felix saw he was headed for judgment and was terrified. But he said to Paul, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25). Poor old Felix! The "convenient season" never came, so far as we know. The curtain goes down—Felix still headed for Hell. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

Poor Rich Man

And then there was the poor rich man. I say "poor and rich" because he had plenty of money, but stark poverty of soul. Jesus told how this rich man had such bumper harvest that his barns weren't big enough. So he planned to build bigger. He said, "I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this

night thy soul will be required of thee." (Luke 12:19, 20). Notice the difference. The rich man said, "many years." But God said "this night." And, my friend, if for you it was "this night"? What?

Charles Bowen, a Christian man, was aboard the S. S. Athenae when it was torpedoed. He said, "I found everybody taken up with escaping from the doomed vessel, no one had time to listen to the Gospel message." One said, "It's too late now," and another said, "I lay in the crowd in the dining saloon wondering how long I would be sinking"; another, "Don't talk to me now," while many were on their knees. Others talked to themselves to try and keep calm, others thought only of their own safety; another man afterwards said in answer to a question, "There wasn't time to think."

One of the saddest incidents was in connection with a woman who was being pulled up from a lifeboat by three British sailors. As she was almost up to the deck of the destroyer, a sailor reached out his hand to help her. At that instant the rope parted and she fell into the sea and was lost. So very near safety, yet lost! What a warning this is! Here one minute, in eternity the next!

A point of time, a moment's space,
Removes me to that heavenly place,
Or shuts me up in Hell.

III. "To Keep Thy Commandments"

No man by his own force can keep God's commandments. But listen. Do you know what command God most wants you to keep? God commands you to believe in Jesus Christ? "This is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ" (I John 3:23). Said Jesus, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him [Jesus Christ] whom he [God] hath sent" (John 6:29). You must get past your own good works, past your bad works, past religion, past the church itself, and get to Him, the Lord Jesus.

A young girl went to a Southern College. She had lovely auburn hair and could sit before a canvas with paint and brushes and sketch anything so easily.

(Continued on Page 5)

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The Glory in One Day's Mail

(Continued from Page 1)

letters have been sent on to me at Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where I am engaged in a city-wide revival campaign. Burdened down with more work than I can get done, with my strength somewhat impaired, I am tremendously encouraged and blessed to hear from these who found Christ through our labors in getting out the gospel in print.

An Army Major Saved; Wants Others to Have Same Blessing

From the Army Air Force, at a field in Florida, a major writes as follows:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Realizing that I am a sinner and believing that Christ died for my sins, I here and now trust Him to be my personal Saviour, depending on Him to forgive all my sins, change my heart, and give me everlasting life as He promised to do. I am glad to confess Him as my Saviour.

"I hope this letter will give you some encouragement to continue spreading His teachings, and that this small contribution will be of aid to you in spreading His Word to others.

"Sincerely,"

The first paragraph of the letter is copied from the twenty-four page booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?", of which some three million copies have been printed. Thank God for the joy of spreading them among our armed forces!

The man who trusted Christ and writes to say so wanted to give me "some encouragement to continue spreading His teachings," he said, and so he enclosed a \$20 bill in gratitude for the message that led him to Christ! That will help make up the deficit of thousands of dollars annually on literature given free. Thank God for the salvation of this Army officer!

"God Is in Japan," Says Soldier's Wife Saved

The twenty-four-page pamphlet, **A Good Man Lost and a Bad Man Saved**, written by this editor, has been used of God to show many the folly of trusting in their own righteousness. Yesterday there came a decision form clipped from that pamphlet which says:

"I have read your sermon, **A Good Man Lost and a Bad Man Saved**. Like the publican, I realize that I am a guilty sinner who needs mercy. Today, here and now, I confess my sinful state to God; I believe that Jesus Christ died for me and wants to save me, so this very moment I trust Him to do it. I risk Him to forgive my sins and save my soul. I write this as a confession of my faith in Him as my Saviour; and from this time forth I will undertake to live for Him, by His grace."

The pamphlet was signed by a married woman, with full A.P.O. address, care Postmaster, San Francisco, California, but I do not feel free to give it here without her consent. Following the signed decision slip, this lady wrote as follows:

"I'm so glad your booklet found its way across the Pacific into my poor heart. I was saved today and all my life I will look to Jesus only! God is in Japan. I'm going to read it to my husband tonight."

My secretary and I have just had a prayer asking God to give us news that this woman's husband has found Christ, too, as his wife hoped. And I am not ashamed of the fearful joy that is mine over the letters from my labor and investment! Thank God that the gospel in print can find its way across the Pacific into poor hearts! Praise the Lord, through Christian literature "God is in Japan," too!

Catholic Delivered From Fear of Purgatory by Trusting Christ

From Gary, Indiana, there came a letter from a Catholic man saved through my booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" First, he pasted the decision slip from that booklet at the top of his letter. Then he writes:

"It is quite a bit of a story to tell everything. I am a Catholic,

and with that I had the purgatory. Purgatory is a Catholic word; it means a 'soul cleaning'; I have seen everything with double vision, poorly seeing and thinking."

Then our new friend tells of the darkness and trouble he was in and says, "I read your book. 'Turn your whole heart from sin to trust in Christ. Choose for Heaven against Hell; choose for Christ against Satan.' In Christ." The name and address are fully given.

The man who writes that he was a Catholic, troubled about purgatory, could not see anything clearly, spiritually, now can sign this statement that he is taking Christ as his own personal Saviour and signed his letter, "In Christ."

Do not tell me there are no hungry hearts among Catholics! Do not tell me that you cannot win souls if you love people and have God's power on you!

Six Conversions Reported in One Day Through Sword Literature

As mentioned in the headlines of this article, we had word also from a sailor in the U. S. Navy, saved somewhere in the Pacific through the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"; one saved from the Republic of the Philippines through the booklet, "Religious But Lost"; and one saved through the booklet, **What Must I Do to Be Saved?** at Claveria Cagayan. The six were not saved the same day. Their letters, coming from far and near, were variously dated. But this one day's mail simply illustrates the hundreds of conversions annually through our literature and shows that the literature is being blessed of God around the world. Practically every day we hear of the salvation of one or more saved through Sword of the Lord literature. Recently a lady on Riverside Drive, New York City, wrote to say she was saved through the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" A man in Parkersburg, West Virginia, found Christ through the pamphlet, **Hell: What the Bible Says About It**. Prisoners, school children, farmers, soldiers, and many others make up the whole number.

Last year 467 people wrote that they were saved through Sword of the Lord literature, including THE SWORD OF THE LORD itself, and books and pamphlets we publish. Seventy-two found Christ, they said, through sermons in this paper. Among those saved was Willie Francis, the negro boy in Louisiana who was condemned to die in the electric chair. The electricity failed to work and Willie Francis was sent back to jail while the knotty legal problem was decided as to whether he should be put in the electric chair again. Eventually Willie Francis went to face death again and this time was electrocuted according to law for the murder of a druggist. But meantime his sister had sent him a book of my sermons, **When Skeletons Come Out of Their Closets** and through it he found Christ and wrote to tell us so. The stories that come to us continually are more thrilling than a novel.

One year 835 people claimed to trust Christ as Saviour through our literature. I believe that every year hundreds are saved through our literature who never write to say so.

We recently sent over \$2,000 worth of literature free to Germany on the request of the head chaplain of American armed forces in Europe. We have unceasing requests for literature. We have the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" already translated into Japanese but there is not money at hand to print it.

Last year we gave away over \$13,000 worth of literature.

Our financial burdens are heavy. I have given away over \$500 worth of free literature in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in the last two and one-half weeks. We have sent free literature to Negro Bible institutes, to penitentiaries, to veterans' hospitals, and to many hundreds of Christian workers.

What You Can Do

There are several things that

Christians who are anxious to see souls saved can do to help us win people to Christ through gospel literature He helps us to write and publish.

1. Please pray! The thousands saved through our literature have been won because God smiled upon the work and gave wisdom and power for it. I am speaking much of the time three and four times daily. Crowds are large, there are long invitations, much promotion and organization is necessary for these revival campaigns. Then I have the heavy burden of editing THE SWORD OF THE LORD, writing, selecting and editing material from other pens. There is much mail to answer. I cannot avoid much responsibility for the whole cause of evangelism, for revivals planned in the Carolina Crusade. I think if you knew my weakness, my burdens, the enormous financial responsibility upon me and my deep need for God's power and wisdom and comfort, you would pray. Please, please pray about Sword of the Lord literature! Pray that much more may be gotten out and many more people reached for Christ than heretofore.

2. Order this literature and help spread it. The booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" twenty-four pages, can be printed and distributed for about 2c per copy. This is possible because we order hundreds of thousands of copies at one time. We will send this booklet postpaid for \$2 per hundred copies.

Other pamphlets greatly used in winning souls are named below:

Bible Facts About Heaven, 8 chapters, price 35c. Some two hundred have found Christ through this tender, comforting, spiritual message.

Hell: What the Bible Says About It, Forty large pages, colorful, very popular. 15c copy.

The following pamphlets are also 15c per copy, are addressed to the un-saved and have resulted in a good many conversions:

A Good Man Lost and a Bad Man Saved.

Trailed by a Wild Beast.

The Last Judgment of the Un-saved Dead.

All Have Sinned.

Neglect—the Shortest Road to Hell.

Religious But Lost.

Our books containing sermons to the unsaved and which have resulted in many souls saved are:

When Skeletons Come Out of Their Closets. \$1.50.

Revival Appeals. \$1.50.

The Scarlet Sin and Other Revival Sermons. \$2.00.

To those who cannot afford to buy the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and are willing to work honestly in putting it out to those who need it, we make the following proposition: If you will sign a statement saying exactly how many copies you will use and promising to give the booklet in every case only to those who promise to read it, and if you promise to accompany the booklet with an earnest appeal when possible, we think we can supply the booklet to you free in reasonable quantities. We are not willing to furnish this booklet free

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The Prodigal Son's Epitaph

(Continued from Page 4)

In school she would draw pictures of her friends. They asked, "How did you get it—that auburn hair of yours?" She would tell them one thing and another, like how she washed it to give it color. They asked her about the sketches and how she drew them. She said she practiced a great deal. She had been drawing since she wore little short dresses. She tried to convince them they could do it too if they would work.

One day the mother came to school to visit her daughter. She got off the train and the students saw that same auburn hair. They looked at the girl and said, "Now we know where you got it." While three of the girls were singing in the classroom, the mother sketched their picture and when the next school paper came out there was a perfect cartoon drawing of the trio of girls. And the students said once more, "Now we know where you got it. She passed it along to you." Oh, you cannot get a real living Christian experience from any other source. You must go to Jesus. He can put away your sins forever and He alone. Joining clubs, joining churches, doing social work cannot do it. First go to Jesus.

How To Believe

You say, "How do I believe? What do you mean believe?" Jesus said, "Come." "Come if you are weary and I will give you

to be handed out to people who do not promise to read it, or sent through the mail promiscuously to people you do not know.

3. Another way you can help is financially. We have given away so much free literature, tens of thousands of dollars worth, that it is a constant struggle to meet expenses. All the royalty of my books that I might have taken for myself goes back into this work. The money is most carefully spent. Our records show very definite and blessed results. The Sword of the Lord Foundation, a non-profit corporation chartered under the laws of Illinois, deserves your confidence. I suggest that you prayerfully consider whether or not some of the Lord's money ought not to be invested in saving souls through our "Free Literature Fund." We are doing all we can; if you help, we can do more.

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Besides supporting missionaries in many countries and sending relief to the suffering Christians and missionaries, we are distributing gospel literature in the Russian, Ukrainian and Polish languages where Slavic colonies are located. This has proved to be a great blessing and souls have been saved. Since 1935 we have been publishing a magazine in the Russian language which contains Sunday School lessons used by many church groups and individuals. We were also able to distribute some Gospels, New Testaments and Bibles. Great demands continue coming to us from Europe, North and South America for more gospel literature. Pray and send your contribution to the

RUSSIAN GOSPEL ASSOCIATION, INC.

PETER DEYNEKA, Director
64 W. Randolph St. Dept. L Chicago 1, Ill.
Pray for Peter Deyneka who is now in Germany preaching in displaced persons camps and in German youth rallies. He will also visit Poland, Czechoslovakia and other European countries.

rest' (Matt. 11:28). He said, "If you will come to me I will not turn you away" (John 6:37). A boy travelling a train was ill at ease. A man was the only other occupant of the coach. He finally asked the boy whether he was in trouble. The boy replied, "A long time ago I ran away from home. Lately I have had the longing to go back and I wrote to my father, but he gave me no answer. So I have written to my mother that I was not going to wait for a reply but was coming anyway. I wrote her that if they would take me back they must hang a white rag on the crab apple tree down near the railroad track so I could see it from the train. If I do not see the white rag, I shall understand and go on back. We are getting near and I am afraid to look for fear the white rag will not be there."

The man said, "Don't bother, I will look for you." The boy sat with his eyes closed. As they came into sight of the tree, the man shouted, "Look, look! There is a white rag on every limb of that tree."

Sinner friend, we have a great God and a great Saviour. My Bible says, "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love" (Song of Sol. 2:4). The banner of His love still waves. It calls, and calls and calls again, "Come home." Will you come?

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WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

Talk About Evangelists

(Continued from Page 1)

sorry to have to say that I am not impressed with the sincerity of your letter, nor your spiritual insight. You seem to be concerned, not so much about getting souls saved as to hearing a 'big-name' preacher, having some famous man come to your unknown place. You have a poor perspective. I would have more confidence in you and would pay more attention to you if you were concerned about someone who could hold a good revival campaign and gets lots of people saved, instead of being so anxious to see some famous man.

"And I tell you frankly that any man who loves souls and takes seriously the command of Jesus Christ to 'go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature,' will want to preach to as large crowds as possible and will want to get as many sinners saved as possible. I simply cannot understand how anybody who professes to love souls and to be anxious to fulfill the command of Jesus Christ, would be satisfied to win few when he could win more. It might be a fine show of humility, but it would not be obeying the Great Commission, it would not be following the leadership of the Holy Spirit, it would not be according to the Bible for any preacher to be content to preach to fewer people and win fewer souls when he could be used more in great cities, with larger crowds.

"Paul preached in Jerusalem, in Antioch, in Corinth, in Athens, in Ephesus, in Rome! He could never have any peace of mind until he got to Rome! And Paul did right about it in going to these great cities and reaching as many people as possible.

"I have held many revival campaigns in little schoolhouses, under brush arbors, and in country churches. I thank God for the blessed results, the souls saved. If it was a proposition of preaching in the poorest place in the world, to ten souls, or not preaching at all, of course I would go to the place where there were only ten souls and no money. But if it is a choice between preaching to ten souls and a thousand, or a choice between preaching to a hundred souls and two thousand, then certainly any body who is honest in wanting to get the gospel to every creature possible would take it to the largest number and expect to see more people saved. I cannot understand the carping attitude of anybody who would not want the largest number possible to hear the gospel and be saved.

"I would expect the kind of criticism you wrote from infidels, bartenders, but not from a preacher's wife. Must we who win souls be constantly stabbed in the back by people who call themselves Christians; slandered by those whose only objection to us is that we are better known and therefore we must be crooked? In my last union revival campaign at San Pedro, California, I was put to terrific expense of over \$1200. Actually, I got for myself and my family only \$38 and a few cents, for a month's work! And it was terribly hard work. But praise the Lord, there were 675 people converted! And in the next campaign, I trust there will be enough offering to help take care of my family. And since that campaign at San Pedro, I have given a month of my time free, without any income, and have paid part of my own expense in the Carolinas, trying to advance the cause of revivals. I give away more than I keep. I gave away over \$14,000 worth of Christian literature last year. My children work their way through college. My wife does her own washing. I have burdens and responsibilities that you cannot even dream about, and yet you feel perfectly free to accuse me, whom you do not know, of being crooked, of preaching for money, of seeking a big reputation!

"The other day Dr. Hyman Appelmann and I were together and he said in the presence of many of us, that he gives away at least

seventy-five per cent of all the money that comes to his hands. And I believe it, for I know that he has put thousands of dollars into the work of Jewish evangelism. I know that Dr. Bob Jones has poured all the money he could get in Bob Jones College. Last week, in a board meeting at the college, I heard some of his workers tell with tears how Dr. Bob Jones went without a suit to help pay the teachers of the college. Dr. Joe Henry Hankins supports a brother, a missionary, in Brazil. Evangelist John Linton supports one missionary full time, and two others partly. Dr. Jack MacArthur supports a great radio program which keeps him stripped and poor. I know these evangelists, know them well. I know their sacrificial lives. Frankly, I do not appreciate having them slandered by people who do not know the facts.

"I certainly would not recommend that any evangelist turn down some large opportunity to come to a place where a critical woman would get some special pride and joy and notoriety by having him. And though I know some evangelists who are having trouble getting started and who, I think, would be very glad to go anywhere, I hesitate to suggest that they come because I know that you are looking for big names and fame in the evangelists whom you have. I know that you do not expect to teach the people to give nor try to support an evangelist that you do get, and so I am not impressed with the opportunity there for some struggling man who is trying hard to care for his family and yet preach the gospel.

"I know that you mean well, but one who does not know any more about it than you do, should certainly not set out to criticize and lecture to men who are winning more souls in America than anybody else.

"Your brothers in Christ"
JOHN R. RICE.

Other Gossip About Evangelists Answered

In another letter which just came a man spoke most kindly about THE SWORD OF THE LORD and about my recent article on "A Defense of Evangelists and Evangelism." But he himself asked some questions about why do evangelists do this and that, etc., questions themselves which foolishly accept at face value unfriendly gossip as truth.

Here is our letter which I hope will prove helpful.

August 7, 1947.

"Dear Brother:

"I am happy to have your letter and glad you liked an issue of The Sword of the Lord.

"Where in the world did you get your idea about evangelists? What reputable evangelists asks that people deposit \$500, \$1,000, or \$2,500 in the bank as a token of financial cooperation before they promise to come to a town for a campaign? Certainly no evangelist known to me, no evangelist recommended by me makes any such demand. None of the evangelists whose sermons are printed in The Sword of the Lord make any such demand. You must have listened to gossip and hearsay to get such ideas. Possibly there have been evangelists who demanded that money be deposited in the bank to take care of the expense of building a large tabernacle or other necessary expenses that ought to be cared for by the churches and the people themselves. But I have not known any such evangelists. On the other hand, I have known many hund-

reds of pastors who would not accept the pastorate of a church without a definitely promised salary, and I have known multiplied thousands of others not preachers but critics like you who would not accept a job of any kind without a definite understanding about salary. It seems to me the evangelists have the best of other preachers and the preachers have the best of you laymen in this matter.

"You say, 'Why are so many small towns and churches passed up in favor of large cities and big influential churches? Is it 'love of money' or 'pride of life'?' That is a rather silly question because I know good evangelists who go continually to small towns and small churches for revival campaigns. To prove it, I suggest that the ministers of your town or any other town you have in mind who want good union revival campaigns, allow me to recommend an evangelist for them. I shall be glad to do it. And if you know a small church that wants a soul-winning revival, there are evangelists who will be ready to come. Most revival campaigns are held in small churches. Obviously the men who can preach to larger crowds and win more souls ought to do it. It would be wrong to please the pride of foolish men by choosing to preach to small crowds instead of large crowds, choosing to win fewer souls instead of many. Paul was certainly right when he preached in Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus, Corinth, Athens and Rome, the great cities of the Roman empire. D. L. Moody felt the same way about it. And any evangelist who can reach the large cities and the largest crowds ought to do so, even as Paul and Moody did. But there are many evangelists with talents and experience and devotion abundantly equal to the opportunity who would be able and willing to accept revival invitations to smaller churches and smaller towns. If you doubt this, have any reputable pastor or group of pastors write me to recommend men for such positions and you will find it true.

"I have held many revival campaigns in small towns and small churches. So have Dr. Bob Jones, Dr. Hyman Appelmann, Dr. Joe Henry Hankins and the other leading evangelists well known to readers of The Sword of the Lord.

"You asked, 'Why are shallow methods sometimes used during the time of decision, to the extent that each person who raises a hand or goes forward for a handshake is counted a convert?' If you will name the evangelist and send me the signed statement by two or more reputable witnesses that this is the method used, that people are counted converts who do not claim to be converts, a regular method of deception, then I will believe that you are trying to be sincere. Until you do, I of course will just naturally count you with those who like to listen to gossip against evangelists and want to believe evil of them in hearsay.

"If a man honestly trusts in Christ in his heart for salvation, he is saved. If the man tells me that he here and now trusts in Christ as his Saviour, I would believe him, whether he indicates it by a raised hand or by coming to take the hand of the evangelist or pastor, or by going into the inquiry room. Personally, I insist on every one who comes to take Christ as Saviour being dealt with privately so that they may have full assurance of salvation, based upon the Word of God and so they may be followed up well. But I do not know a single evangelist who

A Pastor's Comment on Winston-Salem Revival

Rev. T. C. Keaton, Pastor Temple Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was introduced as the dean of Winston-Salem pastors, having been pastor in this North Carolina city for some thirty-four years. The following very kindly and undeserved tribute appeared in the church bulletin of Temple Baptist Church August 10:

"The series of the revival services at the Liberty Street Warehouse, conducted by Dr. John R. Rice and his party, enters upon the fourth and last week today. There will be two services today, one at 3:00 o'clock and the regular evening service at 7:30 o'clock. Great crowds are attending these meetings. Dr. R. A. Torrey had more people reading their Bibles than we ever saw. Billy Sunday

created more religious excitement than we have ever seen. Gypsy Smith did much to sweeten and tone up the lives of Christians. But it remains to say that Dr. Rice preaches more Gospel and with greater demonstration of the Spirit's power than any of these world famous and valiant servants of God. We are grateful that he has had the privilege to preach in our city. We rejoice in the great work he is doing as editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, as eminent author of many books, and most of all, as a herald of the gospel of grace. Eternity alone will reveal the full results of the great work he is doing in our midst."

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"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."—Proverbs 11:30.

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."—Daniel 12:3.

The main business of a Christian is to win souls. For the soul-winner, or the Christian who is not a soul-winner but wants to become one, we have some special helps that will bring great blessing to the earnest reader. We recommend these books to you, urging you to read them and get started at once on the tremendous task of winning the lost to Christ.

THE SOUL-WINNER'S FIRE By Evangelist John R. Rice

Here is a book of 127 pages, eight chapters, especially intended to arouse concern for sinners and give people the zeal and power for soul-winning. It will cause you to pray differently, to work harder, to care more, for lost souls. Here are the chapter titles:

1. "He That Winneth Souls Is Wise."
2. God's Way in Soul Winning.
3. The Compassionate Heart.
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5. Praying for Revival.
6. Evangelistic Preaching.
7. The Soul-Winner's Feet.
8. Unsaved Brothers.

An attractive book, 127 pages, size 6 1/4 x 4 1/4 inches, printed by Moody Press. Get one for your pastor, for Sunday School teachers, and friends who ought to win souls. 35,000 already published. Price 25c

VEST POCKET COMPANION for Christian Workers By R. A. Torrey

This handbook for soul-winners answers so many questions, provides so many verses for ready reference, and provides so much of what is needed in dealing with lost sinners that no Christian ought to be without it. Here are collected Scriptures to answer excuses of every kind, to bring decision, to convict of sin, and for dealing with every kind of sinner. They are arranged under convenient heads, are quoted in full, and are indexed so they may be found easily.

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WHY NOT JOIN CERTAIN CULTS?

There are certain groups of Christians that are in a fundamental agreement on great doctrines of the Bible. They believe in the Bible as the Word of God and as the Christian's sole authority in faith and practice. What are called the "old line" denominations all originally stood for the same great principal doctrines. Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, the Reformed churches, Christians, Moravians, Evangelicals and United Brethren all originally agreed on this great central truth of Christianity, that the Bible is God's Word and that there is no other authority to decide a Christian's faith and conduct outside the Word of God. We are sorry to say that many leaders in these denominations have now turned to unbelief and modernism and deny the fundamentals of faith. But Bible believers in these groups, taking the Bible as their sole authority, agree on the deity of Christ, His blood atonement, His resurrection from the dead, on the fall of man, the need for a new birth, Hell and judgment. They differed on some minor matters, but taking the Bible as authority, they necessarily agreed on the main matters.

But some groups do not acknowledge the sole authority of the Scriptures. They believe and

follow other authorities beside the Bible. Any other authority added to the Bible tends to supplant the Word of God, whether it be the traditions of the church with Catholics; the book of Mormon with Latter Day Saints or Mormons; the writings of Mary Baker Eddy with Christian Scientists; the writings of Mrs. White with the Seventh Day Adventists, or the inward consciousness as with some groups of Quakers or Friends. We believe that no Christian is safe when he accepts any other authority alongside the Bible. Hence I give here two letters to inquirers:

Should He Join Latter Day Saints, Mormons?

August 6, 1947

Dear Brother V. —
In my judgment, any religious group that has as authority anything added to the Bible, is a false cult. Revelation 22:18, 19 pronounces the curse of God on any one who adds to the Word of God, just the same as those who take from the Word of God. This Scripture says:

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if

any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Christian Scientists have the writings of Mary Baker Eddy which they count as authoritative and which they follow even more than the Bible. Seventh Day Adventists regard the writings of Mrs. White as inspired along with the Bible. Catholics take the tradition and the decisions of the church as authoritative even more than the Bible. Mormons are likewise guilty in adding to the Word of God the silly book of Mormon which long ago was shown to be a fake. Most of it was stolen from a novel by Joseph Smith. It has none of the marks of divine inspiration. And besides, Revelations 22:17 clearly shows that the canon of Scripture was closed. I advise you not to join with these people, and to beware lest you be led into sin and false doctrine by them.

In the Saviour's name, yours,
JRR/vw John R. Rice

Invited to Join the Friends or Quakers, a Woman Asks Advice

A friend who is greatly impressed with some fine Christians among Friends or Quakers, is troubled because they do not follow the command of Christ as regard to baptism and the Lord's Supper. She wrote this editor, asking if she would be justified in leaving off these ordinances.

The following is my reply:

August 4, 1947

Dear Mrs. C. —

I believe in the historic Christian position as made clear by Jesus in Matthew 28:19, 20:

"Go, ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

I think it cannot be misunderstood. New converts should be baptized. Then Jesus clearly gave the Lord's Supper and commanded us to continue it.

I am sending my book, *Bible Baptism* under separate cover

which I believe will answer your questions about this ordinance. Please feel free to write me further if I can help you.

Your brother in Christ,

JRR/vw

John R. Rice

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The Editor Says...



Revival Campaigns

We are now (Monday, August 11) beginning the last week of the revival campaign at Winston-Salem, North Carolina, sponsored by some forty-two churches of eight denominations. God is still blessing wonderfully. Crowds are large: Last night when I preached on "Why God Hardened Pharaoh's Heart, Killed Him and Sent Him to Hell," we had a good number of men and women saved and backsliders came to the Lord. The \$5,000 expense budget is practically raised. Pastors seem very happy over the blessed results. Several hundred claimed to have found Christ as Saviour and pastors report a blessed revival warmth in their Sunday morning services. Dr. Harry D. Clarke is doing a wonderful work directing the big choir. Grace Jean Rice and Mrs. Clarke are at the two pianos nightly.

We close here, God willing, next Sunday, August 17. The following Sunday, August 24, we are scheduled to begin a tent revival campaign in Durham, North Carolina. A tent 150 feet long has been secured and we suppose that fourteen or sixteen churches are cooperating in the campaign preparation.

We Want Names for Samples

Readers can do us a great favor if they will send us the names of good Christian people who ought to take THE SWORD OF THE LORD. We should like to send them sample copies with the hope that they will subscribe. Of course we could get telephone directories and other general lists of names but samples to such lists of names bring too few subscriptions for the cost. We want only the names of people who would likely subscribe to such a Christian magazine as THE SWORD OF THE LORD, people who should be interested in Christian literature. Please give names and addresses very carefully and accurately. We would welcome the names of heads of families in sound, Bible-believing churches. Sound pastors who can send us their membership lists will do us a great favor and we believe that those who sub-

scribe to THE SWORD OF THE LORD will be a great benefit to the church.

We should like to have lists of Sunday School teachers.

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A Visitor in the Night

(Continued from Page 4)

sin. "That which is born of the spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

The Remedy

Well, there is the remedy—the new birth. Ye must be born again. Now you do not have to understand it. Nicodemus didn't. He said, "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" And Jesus explained it and said, "Nicodemus, you do not understand how the wind blows. You feel it on your cheek; you hear the leaves rustle out yonder, you see the grass as it bows in the wind. You do not know where the wind is coming from; you do not know where it is going. And if you cannot understand the wind, how do you expect to understand the mighty moving of Him of whom the wind is merely a type, the Holy Spirit? You can't understand it. I have sat at the feet of theological professors who did not understand it. Nobody really understands it. Knowledge will not do it. An understanding of it will not do it. You do not find God in your head. The world by wisdom, knew not God. You cannot find God by searching."

Not By Knowledge

You don't come to God like that. Of course, it is all right to be able to give a reason for the hope that is within you; "upset the other fellow's apple cart" and all that sort of thing when he gives us excuses and all that, but you do not win men to God by argument. If the Holy Spirit does not bring conviction, there is no hope for them. And if you proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, the whole counsel of God, and don't trim your sails; if you proclaim it, God will send it forth in power, and it is never preached that there isn't conviction. Men don't find it by reason. It is not reasonable to an unreasonable man. And a person cannot reason about spiritual things until he has light from God. He may be able to go into the intricacies of Biblical teaching. He may know theology. I have sat at the feet of men who know theology, in great theological seminaries, brilliant men who know the theories of the masters of the ages in theology but don't know God.

I sat at the feet of a brilliant man in New York in a certain theology seminary where I once studied, a man who knew everything. He knew the orthodox position. One day he stood up and said, "We modernists have drenched the world in blood. We are responsible for World War No. 2. We have taken the people astray. We are guilty. We stand with our fingers dripping with the blood of the peoples of the world. We have departed far from the old fundamental position. We have gone astray. What we need to do is to retrace our steps back in the direction of the old position, back to the place where we can form a synthesis with the orthodox position. What we need is a NEW modernism." I heard him say it! We played the fool one time; what we need to do is to play the fool again.

It reminds me of old Dr. Morrison's proverb. He used to make them up, you know. He preached down at the college one time. He said, "Blessed is the

student that doesn't play a fool." For he said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, He that playeth the fool two or three times close together becomes one."

Men play the fool because they are fools. I talked to a young fellow. He said, "I am an agnostic, and you are a Christian. You accept it by faith; I have to have proof for it. We can't know whether there is a God."

I said, "How can we prove anything to you if you can't know?" "Well," he said, "we can't know anything."

I said, "Do you know anything?"

He said, "No."

I said, "I didn't think so. Then you don't know that I don't know anything. That is just a theory with you. You don't know that we can't know anything."

There was a philosopher back yonder—a fool-osopher, by the name of De Carte. He doubted everything. He doubted that he existed. One day he said, "There is one thing I can't doubt; I can't doubt that I doubt; if I doubt, I must exist, and if I exist, everything else must be real." So he built up a positive philosophy. But this fellow said, "You can't know anything. And yet," he said, "your trouble is that you are not scientific."

I said, "What is science?"

He said, "It is classified knowledge." Agnosticism—the Greek A—means without; gnosko—I know; Agnosko—I know not. Agnostic—One who knows not. It is the same as the Latin word ignoramus. But he said you can't know anything.

I said, "Are you a scientist or an agnostic?"

"Well," he said, "in the realm of the material I am a scientist, but in the realm of the spiritual, I am an agnostic."

Try Jesus

I said, "Why don't you take Jesus Christ into your laboratory and put Him to the test and try and see if He is what He claims to be? Apply scientific principles to Jesus. Put Him to the test. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. 'Try me now,' says God."

Philip said to Nathanael, "Come and see."

That is my challenge: Come and see. Just try God. If you want power, you try God. You just cut loose and cast yourself upon Him. If you want power in your life as a minister, as an evangelist, you try God. You meet the conditions. You do what God tells you to do and see if God does not do His part.

Complete Trust

Unsaved young person here this morning, why don't you believe in Jesus? Why don't you cast yourself upon Jesus? Do you know what it means to do that? Just do it. Suppose I fall from the top of a cliff and in my fall I seize a vine growing out of a crevice in the side of a cliff and I swing to the vine, but the vine begins to break. It snaps yonder, and yonder; and yonder, and there is only one strand holding—just one vine. It begins to crack. I fall a few feet. I begin to pray. I look up and it is hundreds of feet to where the light breaks open the cliff top. I look down into the abyss and it is hundreds of feet yonder to those jagged rocks beneath. I reach out to the side and there is nothing to hold to. I reach to the other side; there is

nothing there but the bare wall of a boulder. So I hang onto the vine and pray for dear life: O God, save me! save me! As soon as I open my eyes, I see an angel with broad wings and strong arms and a smiling face. I cry to the angel, "Save me!"

The angel says, "Do you believe I can save you?"

I look at those broad wings and those mighty arms and I say, "Yes, I know you can save me."

The angel says, "Do you believe I will save you?"

I say, "Yes, I believe you will save me." I connect the fact that he came just as I needed him, and my prayer and that smiling countenance and his questions. I say, "Yes, I know you will save me."

He says, "I will if you will trust me. Turn loose the vine, and I will catch you ere you are dashed on the rocks below."

That is what it means to trust Jesus. It means to turn loose every feeble effort to save yourself; it means to turn loose every support; it means to trust Christ and Christ alone. And not until you trust Christ like that, can the work of the new birth take place. Not until you cast yourself upon

Him and trust not church, nor baptism, nor good works, as proper as all these things are for Christian people, can you be saved. Trust Christ! You can't trust Him without having a holy life. Trusting Jesus Christ will cause a miracle in your heart, you will be born again, You will have life today. Trust Jesus! God help you to do it.

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